

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NEWEST YUGOSLAV PROTEST TO AUSTRIAN EMBASSY

REF : BELGRADE 5370

1.FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC PERSONALLY PRESENTED SHARP DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO AUSTRIAN CHARGE BOGNER ON OCT 29 PROTESTING AUSTRIA'S NON-OBSERVANCE OF ARTICLE 7 OF 1955 TREATY ON POSITION AND RIGHTS OF SLOVENIAN AND CROATIAN MINORITIES IN AUSTRIA. PROTEST CHARACTERIZED BY UNCOMPROMISING AND ALMOST VITRIOLIC LANGUAGE. TEXT OF NOTE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY OCT 30 FROM TANJUG IN SERBO-CROATIAN. IT WILL PRESUMABLY BE ON ENGLISH TANJUG SERVICE OCT 31.

2. MINIC MADE FOLLOWING SEVEN POINTS:

A) AUSTRIANS ARE VIOLATING ARTICLE 7, POINT 2 OF 1955 TREATY BY FAILURE TO MAINTAIN REQUIRED NUMBER OF BILINGUAL SCHOOLS.

B) AUSTRIANS VIOLATING ARTICLE 7, POINT 3 OF 1955 TREATY, WHICH ESTABLISHED BOTH GERMAN AND SLOVENIAN AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF CARINTHIA. ATTEMPT TO MAKE CROATIAN OFFICIAL
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IN 1972 STOPPED BY "CHAUVINISTIC AND NAZI GROUPS."

C) AUSTRIANS VIOLATING ARTICLE 7, POINT 4, WHICH GRANTS MINORITIES EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND JUDICIAL INSTITUTIONS.

D) AUSTRIA HAS DONE NOTHING TO CARRY OUT 1955 AGREEMENT IN STYRIA

E) 1955 TREATY DOES NOT RECOGNIZE IN ANY FORM AUSTRIAN ATTEMPTS TO "ESTABLISH" MINORITY SIZE BY CENSUS. AUSTRIA IS USING CENSUS TO FALSIFY MINORITY NUMBERS, AND TO DECREASE MINORITY RIGHTS. AUSTRIA TRIED TO DO SAME THING AFTER WWII BY INTRODUCING ARTIFICIAL NATIONALITY-WENDISH-INTO CENSUS. AUSTRIA USING CENSUS AS MEANS OF FORCED ASSIMILATION.

F) AUSTRIANS HAVE NOT CONSULTED WITH MINORITIES, EVEN WHEN MAKING LAWS AFFECTING THEM. AUSTRIAN POLITICANS USE MINORITIES AS POLITICAL TOOLS.

G) AUSTRIANS HAVE TOLERATED NEO-NAZI MEETINGS, REUNION OF SS UNITS IN KRIVA VRBA (KRUMPENDORF), AND FASCIST ATTACK ON SFRY IN 1972, ALL IN EFFORT TO PRESSURE MINORITIES.

3. PROTEST NOTE ADDS AUSTRIA UNCOOPERATIVE ON OTHER MATTERS TOO: AUSTRIA HAS:

A) NOT RETURNED YUGOSLAV ARCHIVES, DESPITE 50-YEAR OLD AGREEMENT

B) KEPT VALUABLE LOOTED FROM SFRY BY NAZIS

C) CONDUCTED CAMPAIGN OF PROPAGANDA AND DISINFORMATION AGAINST SFRY, SOMETIMES INVOLVING HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

D) ALLOWED MONUMENTS AND TOMBS TO ALLIED POWERS TO BE DESECRATED. PROTEST NOTE CONCLUDES SFRY READY TO DEVELOP RELATIONS ANEW, BUT IF RELATIONS FALTER IT WILL BE AUSTRIA'S FAULT.

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4. COMMENTARY: YUGOSLAVIA-AUSTRIAN CONFRONTATION OVER MINORITIES QUESTION NOW ESCALATED TO HIGHER LEVEL, FURTHER LIMITING POSSIBILITIES FOR EARLY COMPROMISE.
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